

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08010 151453Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 ACDA-07 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 131

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION OCTOBER 15

REF: BEIRUT 7997 (DTG 141405Z OCT 76)

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08010 151453Z

1. SUMMARY. SYRIAN ADVANCE VOLUNTARILY AND APPARENTLY

TEMPORARILY HALTED AT APPROACHES TO ALEY AND SIDON. RIGHTIST MILITIA REPORTED CLEANING PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS OUT OF SOME SHUF AREAS ADJACENT TO JAZZIN/SIDON ROAD. BEIRUT AND VICINITY VERY TENSE WITH HEAVY CLASHES ALONG CONFRONTATION LINE. FUTURE OF ARAB LEAGUE PEACE MISSION LOOKS GRIM AS AL FORCES PULL BACK NEAR SIDON AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAY AL-KHULI MAY RESIGN. CHANCES FOR SARKIS ATTENDANCE AT ARAB SUMMIT NOW VERY SLIM AS SADAT ANNOUNCES HE WON'T ATTEND IF ASSAD WON'T. ARAFAT ASKS ARAB STATES TO WITHDRAW DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FROM DAMASCUS. CHRISTIAN/SYRIAN DIFFERENCES CAUSE TENSION IN ZABLE. CHAMOUN TELLS PRESS HE FAVORS MILITARY SOLUTION "TO THE END." END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN ASSAULT: IN THE MOUNTAINS. SYRIANS REPORTED ON APPROACHES TO ALLEY AT AYN JDAYDAH AND DAHR AL-ABBADIAH. SYRIAN ADVANCE HALTED APPARENTLY VOLUNTARILY LATE OCT 14 AND HAS NOT YET RESUMED. WE UNDERSTAND SYRIANS LARGELY IN CONTROL OF BHAMDUN AREA ALTHOUGH SOME POCKETS OF RESISTANCE CONTINUE. MAJOR PALESTINIAN/PROGRESSIVE FORCE HAS RETIRED TOWARD ALEY. CHRISTIANS CONTINUE SHELL ALEY FROM KAHLE. LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCE REPORTS HEAVY PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST CASUALTIES AND LIGHT SYRIAN CASUALTIES IN MOUNTAINS AND LIGHT CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES IN SOUTH.

3. SYRIAN ASSAULT: IN THE SOUTH. RADIO AMSHIT AND VOICE OF LEBANON CLAIM SYRIANS HAVE ADVANCED TO LIBAA AND AYN AL MIR, EIGHT KILOMETERS EAST OF SIDON. WE UNDERSTAND ADVANCE SYRIANS UNITS ALSO AT HILALIHAY HEIGHTS OVERLOOKING SIDON. PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS MINING ROADS NEAR SIDON. HOWEVER, L'ORIENT-LE JOUR CONJECTURES SYRIANS WILL NOT ATTACK SIDON, WEST BEIRUT OR TRIPOLI DUE LARGE SUNNI POPULATIONS, BUT WILL LAY SEIGE TO THESE CITIES. SOUTHERN SYRIAN THRUST HAS PLACED MAIN FORCE AT ZHALTA AND ON HILLS OVERLOOKING JBAA. SOME RESISTANCE ENCONTERED.

4. RIGHTIST MILITARY PARTICIPATION. CHRISTIAN MILITIAS LARGELY STAYING OUT OF THE FRAY. LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCE SAYS ALL QUIET OCT 14 BETWEEN QULAY'AH AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08010 151453Z

MARJAYUN. RIGHTIST MILITIA ACTIVITY REPORTED FROM AREA NORTH OF JAZZIN/SIDON ROAD WHERE CHRISTIANS APPEAR CLEANING PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS OUT OF VILLAGES BETWEEN JUN AND KAHR FALUS. WE ALSO HAVE REPORT OF CLASH BETWEEN LEFTISTS AND UNKNOWN GROUP OF EITHER CHRISTIANS OR SYRIANS SOUTH OF KAHR HUNI AT QATRANA. PRESS QUOTES SYRIAN SOURCES ON DAMASCUS VISITS BY DELEGATIONS FROM SOUTH LEBANON WHO REQUEST SYRIAN SALVATION FROM "ELEMENTS

OF ANARCHISM." VISITORS, INCLUDING DRUZE GENERAL SHAWKAT SHUKAYR, DENOUNCED BY LEFTIST "ORGANIZATION OF YOUNG DRUZE ARABS."

5. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE. IN BEIRUT, HEAVY FIGHTING AT SEVERAL POINTS ON CENTER CITY CONFRONTATION LINE. RESIDENTIAL BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE WITH AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL RECEIVING MORE CASUALTIES, BOTH FROM MOUNTAIN FIGHTING AND HITS ON WEST BEIRUT. SOUTHERN SUBURBS VERY ACTIVE. TWELVE KILLED IN CLASH AT HADATH. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT BAABDA HEAVILY BOMBARDED OCT 14. IN TRIPOLI AREA, BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE.

6. ARAB PEACE FORCE PULLS BACK. LIBYAN DETACHMENT OF AL FORCES AT ABRA, TWO KILOMETERS EAST OF SIDON, PULLED BACK OCT 14 TO LESS CONTESTED AREA DESPITE PALESTINIAN/ LEFTIST PROTESTS. NOT CLEAR IF AL COMMANDER GENERAL GHUNAYM GAVE WITHDRAWAL ORDER. AL ENVOY HASSAN SABRI AL-KHULI, NOW IN CAIRO, ORDERS GHUNAYM RETURN TO EGYPT. LEBANESE PRESS CITES EGYPTIAN SOURCES AL-KHULI MAY SUBMIT RESIGNATION FROM PEACE MISSION WHEN HE ADDRESSES ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS OCT 15 IN CAIRO.

7. SARKIS FACES ARAB SUMMIT DILEMMA. DIFFICULTIES CONTINUE OVER COMPOSITION LEBANESE DELEGATION TO ARAB SUMMIT. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAYS WHATEVER DECISION SARKIS TAKES, HE RISKS FURTHER DIVIDING THE COUNTRY. PRESENT MOST LIKELY DELEGATION COMPOSED OF NAJIB DAHDAH (NOW IN CAIRO FOR ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING), MUHAMMAD SABRA AND ZAYDAN ZAYDAN (LEBANESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN CAIRO). CHANCES OF SARKIS ATTENDING NOW REDUCED FOLLOWING SADAT ANNOUNCEMENT HE WON'T GO IF ASSAD WON'T.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 08010 151453Z

8. ARAFAT APPEALS TO ARAB STATES. YASSIR ARAFAT MULTIPLIES MEETINGS AND CONTACTS WITH ARAB GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN EFFORT STOP SYRIAN ADVANCE. WFA SAYS ARAFAT HAS ASKED REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBYA, IRAQ ALGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT TO REQUEST THEIR GOVERNMENTS WITHDRAW DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FROM DAMASCUS ARAFAT ISSUED APPEAL TO ARAB STATES "TO STOP THE MASSACRE OF THE PALESTINE REVOLUTION AND THE LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT." L'ORIENT-LE JOUR QUOTES PALESTINIAN SOURCES THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS RESPONDED TO ARAFAT REQUEST AND ASKED SYRIA FOR CEASE-FIRE IN LEBANON.

9. CHRISTIAN/SYRIAN DIFFICULTIES. LONG PREDICTED SYRIAN/RIGHTIST DIFFICULTIES RAISE UGLY HEAD. LEBANESE ARMY BARRACKS IN ZAHLE SURREOUNDED OCT 14 BY SYRIAN TANKS

WITH DEMAND THAT THE 300 LEBANESE EITHER JOIN PRO-SYRIAN VANGUARDS OR DELIVER UP ARMS AND GO HOME. RADICAL RIGHTIST GROUP UNDER MAJOR TARIQ NUJAYM PLEDGES CONTINUED ALLEGIANCE TO LEBANESE ARMY HEADQUARTERS AT YARZI. ENCIRCLEMENT INCIDENT OCCURRED AFTER SYRIANS HAD EXPRESSED DESIRE TO INCORPORATE GROUP BUT CHAMOUN ASKED NEGOTIATIONS BE FROZEN UNTIL SARKIS COULD FINND A SETTLEMENT. TEMPORARY AGREEMENT NOW REACHED, BUT LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SOURCE ESTIMATES SYRIANS WILL GET EQUIPMENT AND HALF THE ENLISTED MEN WITH BALANCE, AND ALL OFFICERS, GOING TO YARZI. ZAHLE TENSE AND KATAEB AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY FORCES ON ALERT. AS SUHUFUYA REPORTS CHAMOUN ANGERED AS WELL BY SYRIAN REFUSAL TO ALLOW RIGHTIST FORCES TO ENTER MIXED CHRISTIAN/DRUZE VILLAGES IN METN. KATAEB DELEGATION NOW IN DAMASCUS SAID NEGOTIATING PROBLEM.

10. RIGHTISTS EMPHASIZE POSITION. CAMILLE CHAMOUN TELLS PRESS "NO CONFERENCE ACHIEVES ANY RESULTS. WE FAVOR A MILITARY SOLUTION UNTIL THE END." HE ADDS SYRIANS PLAN TO "CLEAN UP ALEY" ON OCT 16. PIERRE GEMAYEL SAYS SOMEWHAT SMUGLY HE FAVORS "A RAPID SOLUTION , WHATEVER THE PRICE AND THE RESULT." MARONITE PATRIARCH ANOINE-PIERRE KHURAYSH, SEEING LEBANON ABOUT TO BE REUNITED UNDER SYRIAN/RIGHTIST CONTROL, TELLS PRESS "ALL MARONITE LEADERS OPPOSE PARTITION."
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PAGE 05 BEIRUT 08010 151453Z

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